

Winter 2018

COM Outlook Winter 2018

College of Osteopathic Medicine

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COM OUTLOOK

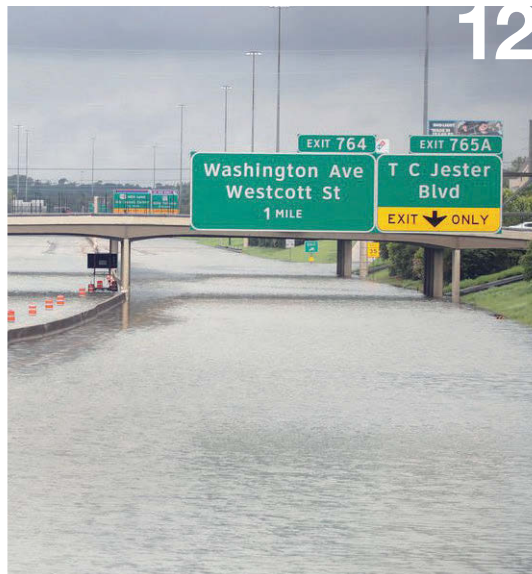
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From left: Ronald G. Assaf, chair, NSU Board of Trustees; Elaine M. Wallace, D.O., M.S., M.S., M.S., dean, Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine; Dr. Kiran C. Patel, M.D.; and George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU president and chief executive officer

Interim Chancellor's COMmunique



Achieving significant milestones has always been a hallmark of Nova Southeastern University. There's little doubt, however, that the past few months have brought exciting and unprecedented change to both the university and the Health Professions Division (HPD).

In September, NSU received the largest philanthropic gift in its history from Dr. Kiran C. Patel, M.D., and his wife, Dr. Pallavi Patel, M.D. The commitment from the Patel Family Foundation includes a \$50-million gift and an additional \$150-million real estate and facility investment in a future 325,000-square-foot medical education complex that will be part of NSU's new Tampa Bay Regional Campus in Clearwater, Florida. Additionally, the Tampa Bay Regional Campus will house another site for NSU's osteopathic medical school.

The financial gift also resulted in several major university changes unveiled on September 25, including the renaming of NSU's osteopathic medical college to the Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine and the renaming of NSU's health care sciences college to the Dr. Pallavi Patel College of Health Care Sciences. To learn about how NSU's historic collaboration with the Patels will benefit its students and the university as a whole, please read the accompanying story in this issue of *COM Outlook*.

Additionally, NSU's College of Allopathic Medicine received preliminary accreditation in early October and is recruiting 50 students for its inaugural class, which will commence in August 2018. NSU's College of Allopathic Medicine is now the eighth M.D. school in Florida, along with two osteopathic medical schools, including NSU's Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine.

The next 12 months promise to bring additional growth and expansion. The creation of the HPD Annex, across the street from the pending NSU Academical Village site, has already provided much-needed space for our growing number of faculty and staff members. Additionally, construction will begin on the HCA East Florida hospital on NSU's Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus.

The Health Professions Division is playing a pivotal role in helping George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU president and CEO, successfully achieve the university's Vision 2020 goals, which range from increasing undergraduate enrollment and enhancing research to enlarging the university's endowment. We look forward to the university's continued accomplishment.

Irving Rosenbaum, D.P.A., Ed.D., M.P.A.
Interim Chancellor
Health Professions Division

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President and Chief Executive Officer

HEALTH PROFESSIONS DIVISION

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Dean's Message



In modern society, philanthropy has come to be defined as the donation of generous sums of money or goods to promote the welfare of others.

We at the college have been the beneficiaries of a great philanthropic gift from Drs. Kiran C. and Pallavi Patel. The Patel Family Foundation has pledged a \$200-million donation to the university, which includes funds for renaming the College of Osteopathic Medicine to the NSU Dr. Kiran C.

Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine (NSU-KPCOM).

The Patels' benevolence provides scholarships for students, as well as money to hire faculty and staff members, purchase educational technology, and invest in the building of a campus in the greater Tampa Bay area that will be the future home of an additional NSU-KPCOM site. This is truly a transformational gift for NSU, and for the college.

However, I want to return your attention to the word philanthropy. The original meaning of the Greek word translates to a "love of humanity." I want to tell you this is the heartfelt emotion of the Patels that drives this donation. The Patels could have invested anywhere; however, they wanted to make a difference in health care—especially with underserved populations.

They wanted to provide a gift that would continue to help this population, both nationally and internationally, for years to come. What better way than to donate to a college that is a leader in global medical outreach and focused on service to the underserved? This is a gift for humanity.

This college was built by the efforts of giants in medicine who took a chance—Drs. Morton Terry, Morton Morris, Matthew Terry, and Anthony J. Silvagni. We are proud to add new names to our foundation: Drs. Kiran C. and Pallavi Patel.

Here's what I know: Those of us at the college stand on the shoulders of all of these giants, and from here, one can see much further into the future. The future of medicine at NSU-KPCOM looks clear and bright.

Thank you, Drs. Kiran C. and Pallavi Patel. We will carry this torch.

Elaine M. Wallace, D.O., M.S., M.S., M.S.

Dean

Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine

A photograph of a man and a woman standing outdoors in front of a building with a tiled roof and columns. The woman is wearing a dark blue, sleeveless, floor-length dress with ruffles and a necklace. The man is wearing a light blue suit jacket, a light pink shirt, and a patterned tie. They are both smiling. The background includes trees, a body of water, and a paved area.

Financial Gift Generates Exciting Transformations

BY SCOTT COLTON, B.A., APR, COM/HPD DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

*Drs. Kiran C. and Pallavi Patel:
Philanthropy, education, and
community service in action*



NSU receives \$200-million commitment from the Patel Family Foundation, which will significantly enhance and expand the Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine.

On September 25, an exciting new chapter in the college's rich history was written due to the benevolence of the Patel Family Foundation and its benefactors—Tampa-area cardiologist Dr. Kiran C. Patel, M.D., and his wife, pediatrician Dr. Pallavi Patel, M.D. Thanks to a \$200-million commitment from the Patels, who are renowned in Florida for their philanthropy, community service, and entrepreneurship, NSU will significantly expand its programs in osteopathic medicine and health care sciences.

The financial commitment, which includes a \$50-million gift and an additional \$150-million real estate and facility investment, is the largest philanthropic gift in NSU history. It will be used to develop a new 27-acre, 325,000-square-foot medical education complex that will be part of NSU's new Tampa Bay Regional Campus in Clearwater. The campus will house an additional site for the renamed Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine (KPCOM), as well as NSU's existing programs in the Tampa area. The college has applied to and is awaiting official approval of the additional site from the AOA's Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation.

"This gift and additional investment will enrich NSU's ability to educate highly qualified physicians and health

care professionals who understand how the medical disciplines can and must work together," said George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU president and chief executive officer. "These future leaders will represent the cultural diversity of our region, our nation, and our world so they can better serve their patients and communities."

The \$50-million gift—one of the seven largest in history to any Florida university—catapults NSU to more than 84 percent of its goal to raise \$250 million by 2020 for its Realizing Potential philanthropic campaign. The Patels' benevolence, which will benefit the university and its students for many decades, has already resulted in several significant developments.

For example, NSU's osteopathic medical college was officially renamed the Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine on September 25 and will receive financial support for equipment and the hiring of additional faculty and staff members in the Tampa Bay area, as well as an endowment to sustain the operation of the college's new location in perpetuity. The new osteopathic medicine site will increase the number of NSU's graduating D.O. physicians from 230 to approximately 380 annually.

continued on next page



Above: A conceptual rendering of the future Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine site at NSU's Tampa Bay Regional Campus.

Left: The site where the new NSU Tampa Bay Regional Campus will be established.

Opposite page, top: A mix of students, dignitaries, and Patel family members were on hand for the ceremonial check presentation.

Opposite page, bottom left: In the days following the historic announcement, the news even appeared on the Reuters digital marquee in New York City's Times Square.

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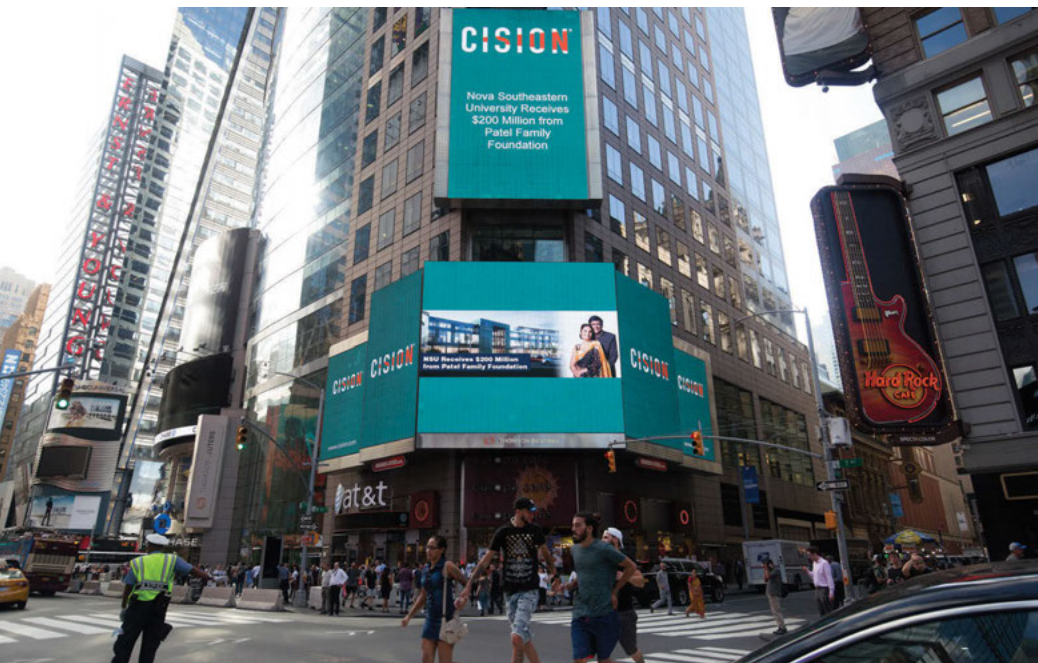
In the week following the renaming ceremony, the college announced the establishment of several endowed scholarships, including the Dr. Kiran C. Patel Endowed Scholarship for Rural and Underserved Medical Education. Dr. Kiran C. Patel created the scholarship with the intent of soliciting donors to contribute \$1 million. Each year, interest from the endowed scholarship will allow 48 KPCOM students to complete a two-month, all-expenses-paid rural and underserved medicine clinical rotation in India.

“Dr. Kiran C. Patel has stated many times that education is the central driving force that can create change in

the world,” said Elaine M. Wallace, D.O., M.S., M.S., M.S., KPCOM dean. “With this donation, the Patels have given our college the opportunity to expand what we do best, which is educate physicians who are dedicated to serving the underserved in the United States and internationally.”

Another major modification was renaming NSU's health care sciences college. It is now called the Dr. Pallavi Patel College of Health Care Sciences and is receiving an endowed scholarship fund for its students.

Additionally, the Patel Family Foundation acquired the former site of Clearwater Christian College. It will be



Above, from left: Elaine M. Wallace, George L. Hanbury II, Dr. Kiran C. Patel, and Dr. Pallavi Patel

developed into the new NSU Tampa Bay Regional Campus by 2019.

NSU's current Tampa Campus, which comprises 1,100 students and 90 faculty members, includes several program offerings from the newly named Dr. Pallavi Patel College of Health Care Sciences, including physical therapy, occupational therapy, and anesthesiologist assistant.

"I feel it is more important than ever to advance the current state of health care," said Dr. Kiran C. Patel, who moved to Tampa in 1982 to launch his cardiology practice. "It is rare for someone to have the

opportunity to impact the world in this way, and, as an immigrant to the United States, I am particularly honored to be able to make a difference in people's lives around the world. I believe NSU is the future of multi-disciplinary medical education. Together, we will be able to capitalize on an opportunity that will be beneficial to millions of human lives—many right here in Florida—and many others across the globe."

Echoing her husband's comments, Dr. Pallavi Patel explained, "This partnership will benefit thousands of patients, students, and doctors. Over the next 20 years, NSU will train thousands of new doctors and other



Students from the Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine and the Dr. Pallavi Patel College of Health Care Sciences showcase their new white coats, which are emblazoned with the new college patches.

health care professionals who will directly touch millions of lives—making a real difference,” she said.

NSU is already the top provider of doctors and physician assistants in the state, with more than 40 percent of its D.O. graduates electing to practice in Florida. Sixty percent of these Florida-based physicians practice and treat patients in medically underserved areas, which was a key factor in the Patels’ decision to enthusiastically support NSU’s osteopathic medicine and health care sciences colleges. Their goal is to be involved in the training and education of generations of physicians and other health care providers who will serve in areas with the greatest need throughout the United States and worldwide.

As a result of the Patel Family Foundation’s generous commitment, NSU has applied for a class of 150 osteopathic medicine (D.O.) students to be taught on Florida’s west coast at the new NSU Tampa Bay Regional Campus in Clearwater, while approximately 230 new osteopathic

medicine students will continue to launch their studies each year at NSU’s Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus.

When the KPCOM site at the Tampa Bay Regional Campus opens, Kenneth Johnson,

D.O., FACOOG, the college’s current assistant dean of faculty affairs, will serve as the onsite executive associate dean and oversee the day-to-day operations. Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.S., M.P.H. and T.M., FACOP, current director of the college’s Master of Public Health Program, will assume the position of assistant dean of preclinical academics, while Elaine M. Wallace will serve as dean of both locations.

“This gift and financial commitment from our innovative and visionary donor couple will allow NSU to help fill the growing need for physicians and health care professionals, particularly in underserved, multicultural, and international communities,” said Frederick Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., NSU’s interim executive vice president and chief operating officer. “It will also help us continue to take a multidisciplinary approach to advancing health care by enhancing integration of medical and health care education, research, practice, and community leadership. That’s how NSU keeps ‘patients first’ and delivers better outcomes for families and communities.” □

Getting to Know...



Dr. Kiran C. Patel, M.D.

Dr. Kiran C. Patel, who was born in Zambia, Africa, to Asian-Indian parents, was educated under the British educational system in Zambia and earned his various diplomas from Cambridge University and the University of London. He earned his medical degree from Gujarat University in India and completed his internship training in Africa. In the ensuing years, Dr. Kiran C. Patel did his internal medicine residency training in New Jersey and went on to complete a cardiology fellowship in a program affiliated with Columbia University in New York.

Dr. Kiran C. Patel and his wife, Dr. Pallavi Patel, moved to Tampa, Florida, in 1982, where he established a successful cardiology practice. He also developed a physician practice management company throughout the Tampa Bay area that expanded into 14 practices encompassing cardiology, family medicine, internal medicine, and pediatrics.

He also partnered with many point-of-service locations to form a multispecialty network that helped patients access various medical services expediently. Over the years, he also became involved in managed care contracts, which now provide care for more than 80,000 patients.

Dr. Kiran C. Patel's success in the managed care contracts arena led a group of physicians to seek his assistance with an HMO in New Port Richey, Florida, which resulted in the creation of Well Care HMO, Inc. In 1992, Dr. Kiran C. Patel helped establish a Medicaid managed care company, which became the largest Medicaid provider in Florida.

Thanks to his business and medical acumen, Dr. Kiran C. Patel worked with more than 95 hospitals and numerous physicians in settling past-due medical claims. He also provided an additional \$15 million in equity, supplied \$10 million of new capital, and acquired 55 percent of the publicly held WellCare Management Group.

Between 1995 and 2002, Dr. Kiran C. Patel built WellCare Management Group into a billion-dollar company, providing services to more than 450,000 members, employing more than 1,200 employees, and operating in Florida, New York, and Connecticut. □

Philanthropic Student Sets Hand-Walking World Record



Ashwin Kalyandurg provides a demonstration of his hand-walking abilities for the college's dean, Elaine M. Wallace, D.O., M.S., M.S., M.S.

Imagine the following scenario: You're a medical student who just completed a grueling training shift at a local hospital during your third-year clinical rotations. It's now 1:00 a.m., and you walk to the roof of the hospital's parking garage.

If you're Ashwin Kalyandurg, however, you're not about to get in your car and head home for a good night's sleep. Instead, you spend the next hour or two practicing your hand-walking skills on the garage's roof.

BY SCOTT COLTON, B.A., APR, COM/HPD DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

It may seem like an odd way to unwind after a long day of medical training, but for Kalyandurg, who is now a fourth-year student, it was just another ordinary day in his quest to break the Guinness World Record for walking the farthest on his hands in eight hours. On June 20, Kalyandurg achieved his dream when, at 5:10 p.m., he had traveled about 3.17 miles—11,220 exhausting steps—at the Clive Daniel Home interior design store in Boca Raton, Florida, besting the 2002 record by 100 meters.

In an ironic twist, the hospital where Kalyandurg did his third-year clinical rotations and trained on the garage roof—Bethesda East Hospital in Boynton Beach, Florida—was where the hand-walking specialist was born more than 22 years ago. So, just how did he develop an interest in becoming a history-making hand-walker?

"I always loved climbing trees. One day when I was 14, two lifeguards at my neighborhood swimming pool challenged me—the 'famous tree climber'—to walk on my hands," Kalyandurg explained. "I failed miserably in my first attempt and vowed to surpass them one day. I trained for a whole year, and when I could finally walk on my hands, I was strong enough to walk around the whole pool."

In addition to setting world records, Kalyandurg uses his hand-walking exploits to raise money for worthy causes. In 2016, he hand-walked from 6:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. at NSU to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. A year later, he completed a one-mile walk to benefit the Eat Better Live Better organization at a 5K run in Boca Raton. Then, in July 2017, while battling a 102-degree fever, Kalyandurg valiantly hopscotched a mile on his hands to support the multiple sclerosis charity Hopping 4 a Cure.



Volunteers look on as Kalyandurg displays his skills at a Hopping 4 a Cure multiple sclerosis fund-raiser.

While Kalyandurg was preparing for his record-breaking walk, he endured a punishing training regimen that included 100 pushups, 100 sit-ups, 100 squats, and a 10-kilometer run daily. Balancing his intense exercise routine with his challenging clinical rotations wasn't easy, but he made it work by maintaining a consistent strategy. "I would always make sure I either walked at least one or two hours on my hands a day or did complementary workouts, like rock and tree climbs or sprints," he explained. "The intense exercise kept me lean and sharp for my rotations."

With graduation looming in May 2018, Kalyandurg already has his sights set on his next fund-raising endeavor: hand-walking the 26.2-mile Boston Marathon in April to raise money for disabled veterans and amputees.

"I want to do this for several reasons, not the least of which is to push the limits of human capability and show the world that nothing can hold back the human spirit," he said. "If I could get people to donate for every step I walk on my hands, it would be a lot, because I'll be walking 100,000 steps!" □

(Note: On September 2, Kalyandurg bested his world record when he participated in the annual Art Walk 4 Autism at Quiet Waters Park in Boca Raton, Florida, by walking 3.78 miles on his hands in eight hours.)



Kalyandurg impresses the crowd with his one-handed exploits.

OMT SAVES THE DAY

During his quest to break the Guinness World Record for hand-walking, Kalyandurg's body endured more than its share of overuse aches and pains, but none more excruciating than the ones that occurred on the fateful day. "On the day of the competition, I was in fighting form," he said. "I had practiced for hours on end and was ready to face the rigors of an eight-hour 'hand-walkathon,' or so I thought."

Because he had trained continuously for a maximum of four hours, he didn't comprehend how his body would rebel once his attempt to set the new world record pushed deep into its fifth hour. "I didn't realize that after almost five hours, hand-walking starts causing hyperextension of the back at the level of the thoracolumbar junction, which aggravates the quadratus lumborum muscle over time and causes it to grab the trapezius, which connects to your posterior neck muscles," he explained.

Consequently, when he disengaged from a handstand, he developed crippling headaches and saw black spots dancing in front of his eyes. "This slowed down my pace dramatically, to the point where I was averaging a mere 10 meters a minute. My friends didn't think I was going to make it because I was in such discomfort," he admitted.

Thankfully, the timely arrival of fellow class of 2018 student Heather Kligfeld helped keep Kalyandurg's endeavor on track. "Heather had come to cheer me on, but when she saw me, she immediately knew something had gone wrong," he said. "She quickly diagnosed the somatic dysfunction that was causing me so much pain and employed OA decompression to break up a knot that had formed between my trapezius and occiput."

Kalyandurg, who hopes to revolutionize the world of pain management by using osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT) in conjunction with existing treatment protocols to create a new paradigm in health care, credits Kligfeld's OMT ministrations for allowing him to continue.

"Immediately after Heather employed the technique, I felt immeasurable relief because she had freed my head from the knotted, barbed-wire fence that my back had transformed into over the previous five hours," he said. "Thanks to her skillful diagnosis and assessment of the problem, I was able to forge ahead and break the world record." □

M.S. DEM Student Assists in Hurricane Harvey Relief Efforts



BY SCOTT COLTON, B.A., APR, COM/HPD DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

When Hurricane Harvey stalled over areas of Texas in late August, it dumped more than 50 inches of rain in various cities, creating a flooding crisis of epic proportions. Thanks to the efforts of countless disaster response personnel who leapt into action, however, hurricane victims received much-needed assistance from a range of providers.

One of those well-trained responders was Brian Hierholzer, Pharm.D., CPh, TTS, a student in NSU-KPCOM's Master of Science in Disaster and Emergency Management (M.S. DEM) Program who serves as a clinical assistant professor in the NSU College of Pharmacy's Department of Pharmacy Practice. On August 30, Hierholzer and other members of the Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) Florida 5 flew to Dallas and were quickly placed on a bus to Houston to aid storm victims.

Hierholzer, who specializes in critical care, emergency medicine, and trauma, has worked in emergency medicine since 2004. As a member of the DMAT Florida 5, which was on call during the month of August, Hierholzer was ready to respond when his DMAT was placed on high alert to deploy to Texas as Hurricane Harvey approached.

"As an emergency medicine provider, I find myself comfortable in the midst of chaos and emergency situations, which is what drew me to be involved in disaster relief," said Hierholzer, who had just started the M.S. DEM Program when he was deployed to Texas. "It is a wonderful way to provide care to those whose lives have been totally uprooted."

Although Hierholzer had provided assistance in several disaster areas prior to his Houston deployment, each one conjures unsettling and visceral emotions, especially at first glance. "The two things that initially stood out to me about this disaster were the amount of water and the ability of a major city to turn into a virtual ghost town," he said.

There was, however, one especially heartbreaking scene he witnessed during his two-week deployment. "The image that will stick with me the longest is people walking the streets holding plastic garbage bags containing everything they could salvage," he explained. "Entire families had everything they had worked for taken away with no knowledge of what, if anything, they would find when they were finally able to return home."

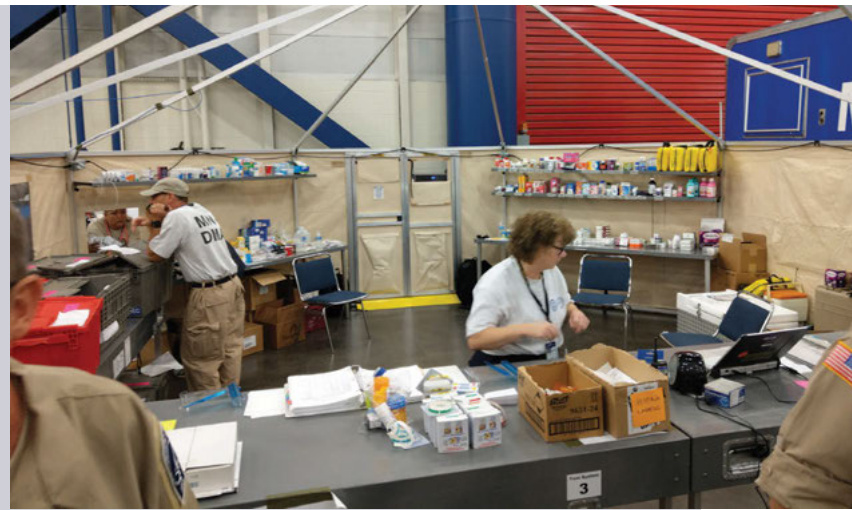


Above: Hurricane victims wait in long lines to sign up for FEMA assistance at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas.

Right: Brian Hierholzer en route from Dallas to Houston.

Far right, above: Relief workers stock the mobile pharmacy.

Far right, A 240-bed hospital was assembled to treat victims suffering from various ailments and injuries.



The DMAT Florida 5 was stationed at a National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) health center temporarily erected near the George R. Brown Convention Center, which served as a shelter for thousands of Hurricane Harvey evacuees. “The shelter housed more than 11,000 people at one point, so the NDMS health center was seeing and treating more than 500 patients a day,” said Hierholzer, a 2003 NSU College of Pharmacy alumnus. “The health care center consisted of an emergency department, which treated anything from minor ailments to critically ill patients. It also offered dialysis, mental health, nursing home, and pharmacy services.”

Hierholzer, who had participated in just one online M.S. DEM class when he was deployed, said the coursework quickly provided him with new insights he carried with him. “Prior to my departure to Houston, I was preparing for my upcoming classes and trying to get ahead in my reading,” he explained. “What I had read gave me a better understanding of the management structure and functions outside of the medical side that go into disaster relief. I was then able to observe many of these things while in Houston.”

Despite the overall effectiveness of disaster relief efforts, Hierholzer admitted there is indeed room for improvement when it comes to the deployment process. “The biggest lesson I learned, or that was reinforced while I was in Houston, was the sheer enormity and inefficiency of the system. Lack of communication during deployment phases leaves many participants wondering where they are going, or even if they are going to be deployed to assist.”

With another successful disaster relief effort behind him, Hierholzer reflected on what he finds most inspiring about being a DMAT member. “People are amazing creatures. When faced with devastation and human suffering, it never ceases to amaze me the effort that will be put forth by everyday people in order to help those in need,” he said.

“Prejudices and feelings seem to disappear from the situation, and people truly come together to help,” he added. “It is unfortunate in today’s world that it takes a catastrophe to bring out this side of human nature, but at least it is evidence that it still exists. Being able to witness this resolve and unselfishness is probably one of the most elating and lasting memories I take out of these experiences.” □



A multidisciplinary group of 155 participants volunteered their time to the Jamaica medical outreach trip.

Medical Outreach in Jamaica Benefits Impoverished Patients

BY SCOTT COLTON, B.A., APR, COM/HPD DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

During the past 17 years, NSU's Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine (NSU-KPCOM) has made numerous medical outreach pilgrimages to various areas in Jamaica to provide vital health care services and offer preventive health education to medically underserved citizens. The latest outreach endeavor, held June 3–12 in the areas of Kingston and St. Mary, provided a range of health care services to more than 3,200 patients.

Although the medical outreach trip to Jamaica is coordinated twice a year by the college through the tireless planning of Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O., M.P.H., associate professor of family medicine, the humanitarian effort has evolved into a true interprofessional and multidisciplinary alliance. During the June trip, five NSU-KPCOM faculty members and three first-year

students participated, but that only represented a fraction of overall involvement.

According to Anderson-Worts, 155 multidisciplinary participants volunteered their time to the Jamaica medical outreach trip, including 7 medical students from the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine and 2 physicians who live in Jamaica. Additionally, a number of faculty members and students from other NSU Health Professions Division colleges and programs participated, such as dental medicine, nursing, occupational therapy (OT), optometry, and physical therapy (PT). A humanitarian team from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy at the University of the Sciences provided pharmacy services.

“We converted churches and schools into makeshift clinics, provided care to patients of all ages, and dispensed free



Second-year NSU-KPCOM student Edwin McMillan chats with a patient.

medications and supplies,” said Anderson-Worts of the successful medical outreach effort. “The medical team worked collaboratively with OT and PT to assist patients with exercises, supplied needed medical devices, and provided preventive education the patients could utilize after we left.”

The NSU College of Nursing volunteers played an especially pivotal role by assisting the physicians and providing vital education to the patients, which included important discussions about diabetes, hypertension, smoking cessation, and sexually transmitted infections.

Rebecca Cherner, D.O., associate professor of family medicine, who was participating in the trip for the first time with her two children, was able to make an

immediate and impactful difference during a pivotal patient encounter. “Dr. Cherner was able to use her astute clinical skills to identify a young girl who was being mistreated,” Anderson-Worts explained. “Although it was an emotional situation, the blessing was that she was able to intervene and get the young girl the help she needed.”

To provide the visiting volunteers with some much-appreciated downtime, they had the opportunity to visit Port Royal—a historical site in Kingston known for its famous forts and fresh fish. Before returning to the United States, the participants also visited a number of popular attractions in Ocho Rios, including Dunn’s River Falls, the Blue Hole, and Mystic Mountain. □



*Kenneth Johnson, D.O.,
FACOG, assistant
dean of faculty affairs,
demonstrates the
intricacies involved with
delivering a baby on a
simulation mannequin.*

AIM-High Program Draws High School Students to Discover Diverse Medical Careers

BY DEBRA R. GIBBS, B.A., MEDICAL COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

In June 2017, NSU-KPCOM observed the second year of Achieve in Medicine (AIM-High)—a weeklong program established to enhance enthusiasm for careers in the health professions and to instill a passion for medicine in exceptional high school students.

More than 150 phone calls and 115 completed applications from 18 states demonstrated the robust interest in the residential medical immersion camp. Building on the success of the first year, 93 students from 8 states and 3 students from Puerto Rico joined KPCOM faculty members and medical students to experience college life on the NSU Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus.

The AIM-High program is a proven way to tap and nurture interest at the high school level, and it “replicates on a smaller level what our medical students handle on a daily basis,” said the college’s dean, Elaine M. Wallace, D.O., M.S., M.S., M.S., during a local television news segment about the AIM-High students as they discovered the college’s simulation lab.

The innovative program created an open environment for interaction and acquisition of valuable skills that highlight various health professions. AIM-High provides high school students with hands-on exposure to medicine, including

- suturing and dissection
- disaster medicine drills with first responders
- simulation lab rotations
- interactions with standardized patients
- wound care with maggots
- 3-D printing
- emerging technologies in medicine

The camp also emphasized a variety of social and cultural activities that focused on the diversity and comradeship found at Nova Southeastern University. The collaborative setting of AIM-High blended 44 faculty members from 4 NSU colleges. KPCOM students served as mentors and counselors, working for a combined 1,723 hours.

Service is a hallmark of the college, and therefore an important component of AIM-High. As part of the program's curriculum, the participants spent an evening at the Ronald McDonald House (RMDH) in Fort Lauderdale. Visiting the RMDH exposed students to the impact of having a child with a devastating disease or illness. The supportive RMDH environment allows families to focus closely on the care and comfort they and their children need to deal with difficult life experiences and decisions.



Elaine M. Wallace explains osteopathic principles and practice techniques to the participants.

Families who live at the RMDH avoid some of the financial burdens and are able to spend more time with their children and with the medical teams that offer care. Students supported the families by preparing dinners and putting together to-go bags filled with healthy snacks and notes of encouragement.

Students evaluated the experience favorably, with 80 percent strongly agreeing that "AIM-High was a good medical immersion experience," while 74 percent said they "felt the counselors cared about my learning." That belief is underlined by Mavi Eyuboglu, a student from Aragon High School in San Francisco, California. "I was expecting a lot of exposure, but I wasn't expecting such in-depth exposure," she said. "Everyone here is just so committed to helping you learn."

That high degree of dedication is personified by Kristi Messer, M.P.H., M.S.W., director of the college's undergraduate programs. "The relationships that AIM-High participants develop with NSU faculty members and KPCOM students, and the candid conversations and shared interests that transpire over the week, are experiences that ultimately encourage students to realize their potential as future health care professionals," she said.

The summer of 2016 AIM-High camp achieved strong success and support, resulting in the creation of AIM-

Higher 2017—an augmented program designed to give a more in-depth and personal experience for students who participated in the inaugural program in 2016.

The theme of AIM-Higher focused on ways in which the health care experience can impact patients. An arts-based session, wherein students painted each other and discussed their feelings, highlighted the topics of empathy and compassion. In a second activity, faculty members from NSU's College of Psychology offered a program that included role playing and exchanges that fostered greater understanding of the doctor-patient relationship.

A highlight of the week for AIM-Higher students included a visit to Covenant Village of Florida—a senior living community. In 2017, NSU-KPCOM opened an outpatient medical center in the development, and the dedicated team of health care professionals at Covenant Village welcomed the students and offered them the opportunity to observe and interact with the community's active senior population.

In the simulation lab, students moved from feelings to actions, drawing blood and performing ultrasounds. Simulated labor, delivery, and postnatal care were included in an additional simulation lab where students delivered the baby and conducted follow-up care.

An osteopathic manipulative medicine lab gave students the opportunity to learn and practice various basic



Left: An AIM-Higher student practices drawing blood on a simulated arm.

Left, bottom: Mastering the art of intubation was an integral skill learned during the medical camp.

Below: AIM-High students practice finding vital signs in the simulation lab.



techniques on each other. Students shadowed physicians in the medical clinic and interviewed simulated patients in the lab. The sessions were recorded and then reviewed by first-year NSU-KPCOM students who volunteered to critique the AIM-Higher students.

Positive feedback and advice enhanced the experience. Collaboration between the AIM-Higher and KPCOM students was an invaluable part of the program. An afternoon activity included dissecting a fetal pig, led by Wallace, and research from work performed early in the week led to posters that were displayed at the celebratory dinner on the last night of the camp.

“AIM-Higher is an excellent chance for students to experience firsthand various aspects of health care, what interactions with patients include, and the many areas of



medicine in which they can become involved,” said Dianna L. Silvagni, J.D., clinical assistant professor of medical education, who led the AIM-Higher program. “What a wonderful opportunity at an age when they are starting to make decisions about careers, where and how they will prepare for that career, and how NSU can meet those needs.”

Looking ahead, KPCOM’s strategic plans for interprofessional education and practice call for adding patient simulation activities for AIM-High 2018 that include the collaboration of health professions students from multiple disciplines. The opportunity to work alongside numerous health professions students will help AIM-High participants to understand the overlapping and complementary skills of the various health professions, as well as the importance of working collaboratively to optimize patient care.

“Students learned to do medical examinations, performed surgical techniques, and participated in numerous other medically related activities while interacting with practicing physicians, scientific researchers, and medical students,” said Phyllis Filker, D.M.D., M.P.H., associate dean of undergraduate, graduate, and community education. “They also had the opportunity to experience college life while exploring these medical topics and acquiring the tools they would need for college success.” □

Student COMMunications



First-year students enjoy the opportunity to become acquainted with their peers aboard the Grand Floridian.

Student Wellness Cruise Serves Multiple Purposes

On August 2, the college coordinated its third Sunset Wellness Orientation Cruise for incoming class of 2021 students aboard the *Grand Floridian* yacht. The excursion allowed the entering students to enjoy a three-hour cruise along Fort Lauderdale's scenic Intracoastal Waterway and get acquainted with their classmates, as well as faculty and staff members. During the cruise, 10 student wellness stations were available to provide vital information to the incoming students and help them thrive during their medical school experience and beyond. □



Third-year student **Christopher Mancuso**, M.H.S., and second-year student **Megan Hemmrich** received the first-place award for their poster "The Use of Xenografts in the Reconstruction of the Ear Following Keloid Excision" at the 14th International Conference on Clinical and Experimental Dermatology on June 20 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Mancuso also was awarded a PanSGA Professional Development Grant for his study investigating the surgical treatment for recurrent keloids. He presented his project "The Use of Xenografts in the Reconstruction of the Ear Following Keloid Excision" at the 9th Clinical Dermatology Congress on October 16–18 in New York. □

Student Perspectives

In the following articles, two NSU-KPCOM students share their insights into why participating in various extracurricular activities promotes wellness, reduces stress, and potentially makes them better future physicians. In the third piece, a brave student divulges her dreams, shares her battles with self-esteem, and discusses how an opportunity to become a Miss Korea USA finalist helped her alter her perceptions.



Music Is Medicine

BY CHRISTOPHER LARRIMORE, M.Sc., THIRD-YEAR STUDENT

As a student physician, much of my energy is spent absorbing vast amounts of medical knowledge. Entering into this learned profession has certainly required a level of academic devotion that at times seems counterintuitive. If medicine is a learned profession, then why does the process feel partial?

I believe it is because so much emphasis is placed on learning scientific doctrines, while scant attention is paid to just how this knowledge is dispensed in a clinical setting. While it is true that medicine is a learned profession, let us not forget that healing is a performance of art.

Clinical practice is a performance a physician cannot avoid. Because music is, perhaps, the purest form of performance, it is reasonable to suggest that playing a musical instrument can be a powerful tool used to develop clinical skills. When learning a new song, it is not enough to know the notes. Equally important are the expression and timing of each note.

Music also resists complacency. During a performance, plateaus are discouraged, because if a musician does not improve, or if a song becomes too redundant, the



From left: Music is medicine for bandmates and classmates Marc Macaluso (bass guitar), Patrick Hartman (drums), Christopher Larrimore (guitar), and Daniel Nery (keyboard), who formed a rock band during their first two years of medical school to relieve stress and improve their clinical skills.

performance decays. For these reasons, performing music can act as a catalyst for intellectual vibrancy and can also inspire stronger patient-doctor interactions.

But, music also awakens passion, reaching a primal level within us all that rivals love and hope. My friend Cynthia once taught me that hope is passion for what is possible. If music is the spark that ignites passion, then hope becomes the fire that inspires healing. After all, music is medicine. □

Student Perspectives

Beyond Boulders and Books

BY KEVIN MORILES, M.S., FIRST-YEAR STUDENT

“I think I made a terrible mistake,” I said to myself as I waited quietly in an airport security line. It had only been five weeks since I started medical school, four weeks since I met second-year students T.J. Malik and Danny Tran, and less than one week since we finalized logistics to rock climb at the legendary Red River Gorge in Slade, Kentucky.

We were now 30 minutes from boarding the plane, and a plethora of uncertainty began to weigh heavily on my mind. Would this climbing trip jeopardize my academic career? Would my student ambassador or other club responsibilities also suffer? And, most significantly, would I ever become a physician if I kept making time for climbing?

Although I was uncertain, one thing I did know was that climbing brought substantial joy to my life. I also knew that if I were to maintain wellness throughout my medical school experience, I needed to allocate time to the things that made me happy. Consequently, nothing would stop me from dangling 60 feet in the air by a tiny bolt and loving every minute of it.

Our trip was nothing short of an adventure. We hiked through lush forests that brought us a profound peace and an appreciation for the outdoors and napped in hammocks that granted us rest from the busy and stressful days of medical school. We also climbed routes that scared us half to death, but left us humbled in our abilities and yearning for more.

I climbed Amarillo Sunset, which is rated a 5.11B difficulty—the hardest grade I have ever climbed. The route was unique in that each move was demanding and dynamic since my reach was limited. This meant I would have to leap to each of the holds to ascend the route. It was a scary experience because I had to commit to the move and trust each hold would bear my weight.

If I missed a sequence, I would fall to the last bolt I clipped, which in this case would be 15 to 20 feet



From left: T.J. Malik, Danny Tran, and Kevin Moriles at Red River Gorge

below. In this sense, the climb was a physical and mental test. I was intimidated because the route seemed beyond my capabilities. The physical endurance, the brute strength, and the sheer guts to commit to each one of those moves seemed far too demanding with what I was normally accustomed to doing.

Although some sequences required assistance from my belayer and gear, I eventually reached the top. The struggle on that route was a deeply humbling experience that reminded me of how medical school is going to be for the next four years. I know our commitment to medicine will be tested constantly, and that there will be times when the obstacles before us may seem beyond our capabilities.

But, like Amarillo Sunset, these tests and other trials are not impossible. All they require are diligent drive, a consistent commitment, and a proactive passion to overcome. □

Student Perspectives

A Dream Within a Dream

BY SUZIE PARK, THIRD-YEAR STUDENT



“Congratulations, you have been selected as a finalist for Miss Korea USA 2016.”

The rush of emotions I felt was overwhelming as I read the above words. It was my childhood dream come true! My grandmother would always tell me how proud she was of me and how I should grow up to be Miss Korea. Being Miss Korea in South Korea was considered the epitome of beauty, grace, and honor, not only for yourself, but also for your family.

I wholeheartedly believed what my grandmother said, so I was always upbeat about life and excited to share who I was and what I had. By the time I was in fifth grade, I was elected class president, had appeared on several TV shows, and won a few song-and-dance competitions. After a number of traumatic changes in my family life, however, I began to experience problems with self-confidence, self-love, and anxiety in my adolescent years.

In a matter of a few weeks, I was living in a different country where I had no family or friends and could not understand a word of English. Not only was I struggling with such a drastic change, but I was also tossed into the middle of many different voices trying to guide me. I also fell victim to the bullying of others, who saw and took advantage of my insecurities. This led to struggles

with anxiety and feeling judged by those around me. Over the years, I learned how to suppress my anxiety, but it followed me like a shadow.

Fast forward to 2015 when I was a first-year medical student. I met some of the world’s most selfless individuals at NSU-KPCOM, who I am blessed to call my friends and family. Surrounded by love and support from my peers, I was finally becoming the person I always hoped to be. I started eating healthy and exercising with my classmates. Being around my medical school family reminded me of when my grandmother provided her endless love. Slowly but surely, I was healing and getting stronger. Strangely, some of my classmates and a professor started calling me “Miss Korea,” which was another parallel to my past.

One night in the spring of 2016, I researched the process of becoming Miss Korea and realized it was my last chance due to my age. My anxiety suddenly flared up, telling me I should not dare apply. I realized, however, that this was my time to stand up for myself and be a voice for my culture. I wanted to use the platform to encourage and share with young girls globally what it means to be truly beautiful—and not by the measures of society or the girls at school. As soon as I completed my final medical school exam at the end of my first year, I applied.

Sadly, South Korea has the highest adolescent suicide rate, mainly because society and the media pressure girls to be thin and underweight. Double eyelid surgery is a common high school graduation present for girls to “make them beautiful.” I wanted to speak out against this pandemic of young women across the globe struggling to love themselves for who they are.

In my Miss Korea statement, I announced that, because of my unique perspective as an osteopathic medicine student, I wanted to share a message that true beauty comes from within. I expressed my concern and desire to promote overall health and well-being—physically, mentally, and spiritually. Like a big sister, I hoped to set an example and reach out to thousands of girls who may be struggling as I once did.

I then flew to Korea and met with different agents from entertainment agencies after receiving the life-changing email that announced I was a finalist in the competition. I spent hours taking dance, singing, piano, and walking lessons while watching my diet.

Unfortunately, competing in the pageant meant I would have to put my dream of becoming a physician on hold for two years. There were also unforeseen commitments, policies, and politics that were not revealed to the public,

including signing a two-year contract before I could even compete in the pageant. Many mentors advised me to look inward and ask myself, “Who do you want to be in 10 years?”

After countless prayers and sleepless nights, I did not sign the contract, giving up my opportunity to win the Miss Korea USA title. I realized that becoming a doctor was more valuable than competing in a beauty pageant. I was proud and grateful to have been a finalist, as it was my grandmother and five-year-old self’s dream come true, but I had a new dream.

In the midst of walking the road to becoming a physician, I found my true self again. Through Miss Korea, I found a new purpose and challenge. When I returned to the college to start my second year, I put my heart and soul into still being a voice for my culture by establishing an HPD-wide Asian Student Association and providing free health care fairs twice a year to the minority population in South Florida.

I share my story so others can also stand up for themselves and chase their dreams. A positive act of kindness can grow to make a powerful difference. To everyone at NSU-KPCOM who helped me along this journey, your kindness will never be forgotten. □



Suzie Park is extremely proud of the Asian Student Association she established at NSU's Health Professions Division.

Faculty COMMUNICATIONS



Anjali Bhasin, M.D., assistant professor of internal medicine, was selected to join the Physician Leadership Academy of South Florida. The selection was made by the Broward County Medical Association and underwritten by a grant from the Physician

Foundation. The program is presented by the Palm Beach Medical Society in collaboration with the Broward and Dade County medical associations.



Marie Florent-Carre, D.O., M.P.H., director of rural and urban underserved medicine and assistant professor of family medicine and public health, was certified by the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine and the Ohio University

Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine as a health policy fellow. Florent-Carre completed the requirements of the 2016–2017 Health Policy Fellowship class and was awarded a certificate of completion. As a health policy fellow, Florent-Carre has demonstrated the ability to research health policy issues, understand the health policy process, and serve as a resource in the formulation of health policy.



Anthony N. Ottaviani, D.O., M.P.H., MACOI, FCCP, clinical professor of internal medicine, regional dean, and director of medical education at Largo Medical Center, received the Citizen of the Year award at the Central Pinellas Chamber of

Commerce annual awards ceremony held in Clearwater, Florida, on September 29. The award is presented annually to a person who is distinguished through outstanding achievement in community service.



Jill Wallace-Ross, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine and osteopathic principles and practice, was named assistant dean of osteopathic clinical education after serving a short period as interim assistant dean. To improve competencies, Wallace-

Ross rearranged the departmental structure and hired an academic educator, a student career counselor, a student outreach counselor, and a new department manager. These changes were made to strengthen the department's academic base, as well as enhance student outreach and advocacy.

Longtime Clinical Professor Passes Away



Marc Morganstine, D.O., M.S., FAODME, who served as a clinical professor of family medicine for many years, passed away on August 13. Morganstine, who was affiliated with NSU's Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine for more than 35 years, made a profound impact on many levels. He spent the past 25 years working as vice president of medical education at Palmetto General Hospital in Hialeah, Florida, and as the college's clinical assistant dean at Palmetto General since 2014.

In 1999, when the college established its osteopathic postdoctoral training institute—the Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education—Morganstine played an integral role from the start, eventually serving as its president from 2006 through 2008. Morganstine received the Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (SECOM) Distinguished Service Award in 1989 and the Florida Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians Family Medicine Resident Educator of the Year Award in 2007.

Faculty Members Shine at FSACOFP Convention

During the Florida Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (FSACOFP) Convention and Family Medicine Update, held July 26–30 in Orlando, Florida, several faculty members received awards and were elected to positions on the FSACOFP Executive Committee.

Judith Schaffer, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine, was named Family Physician of the Year, while **Paula Anderson Worts, D.O., M.P.H.**, associate professor of family medicine, received the Educator of the Year Award.

Barbara Arcos, D.O., associate professor and chair of family medicine, was named FSACOFP president, while **Traci-lyn Eisenberg, D.O.**, assistant professor of family medicine, was named treasurer.



From left: Jennifer Jordan, Elaine Lefkowitz, and Nilda Hernandez

Faculty, Staff Members Honored with Dean's Awards

In June, three faculty and staff members were honored with the annual Dean's Awards, which are selected by the college's dean, Elaine M. Wallace, D.O., M.S., M.S., M.S. **Jennifer Jordan, Ed.D.**, assistant dean of medical education, was named Faculty Member of the Year, while **Elaine Lefkowitz**, director of clinical education, received the Director/Coordinator of the Year accolade. **Nilda Hernandez**, data system administrator, was named Staff Member of the Year.

Faculty COMMUNICATIONS

Clinical Associate Professor Relishes Radiology and Student Interaction

BY SCOTT COLTON, B.A., APR, COM/HPD DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

In 2004, Jordan Ditchek, M.D., clinical associate professor of radiology, was enjoying his career as a diagnostic radiologist in South Florida. Despite his professional fulfillment, Ditchek was yearning to do more than just practice his specialty.

“Practicing diagnostic radiology is extremely challenging and rewarding. The ability to look inside the patient and make a diagnosis using our advanced technology is a privilege and responsibility,” explained Ditchek, who is affiliated with Radiology Associates of Hollywood and Memorial Healthcare System. “But, in private practice, I was not finding adequate opportunity to feed my other passion: teaching.”

Consequently, when NSU’s Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine (NSU-KPCOM) was seeking an outside expert to present the “Imaging of the GI System” lecture in 2004, he jumped at the chance. “As far as I know, I am the only radiologist regularly lecturing at NSU,” said Ditchek, who was born and raised in South Florida. “Despite the ‘frontline’ position that diagnostic imaging has assumed in modern medicine, medical students nationwide still do not get adequate training in radiology. I have been on a mission at NSU for over a decade to single-handedly change that.”

Ditchek, who earned his M.D. degree at what is now known as Weill Cornell Medical College in New York, said his teaching interests were sparked by watching his parents. “Despite my father’s busy private rheumatology practice responsibilities, he taught weekly at the University of Miami, where he became a clinical professor,” he said.



Jordan Ditchek

“My mother had a long career as an elementary school teacher and later become well known as an adult educator in South Florida. As a kid, I occasionally had the privilege to see them each lecture. It was amazing to watch these two role models educate, inspire, stimulate, and entertain an entire audience.”

Luckily, the ability to provide interesting yet educational lectures is a skill Ditchek’s parents passed on to him. In the years since he first presented the “Imaging of the GI System” lecture, Ditchek’s role as a clinical associate

professor has expanded to the point that he now interacts with students from all four classes on a continuum.

“NSU’s osteopathic medical students are bright, inquisitive, and appreciative. After each lecture, a line of students forms,” he explained. “Some have questions, some want to discuss imaging-related topics, and others just want to express their gratitude for an enjoyable lecture or exciting course.”

One of Ditchek’s initial achievements was codesigning the Principles of Radiology course given to the first-year students. In this weeklong course, he lays the groundwork for the more advanced material he later presents to the second-year students when he returns during seven of their systems courses. The emphasis then turns to the imaging manifestations of common diseases, and, more importantly, the efficient use of imaging in evaluating particular clinical scenarios.

Ditchek stressed that he isn’t trying to make all the students into radiologists, although he admitted it



Jordan Ditchek, fifth from right, who serves as faculty adviser of the college's Radiology Club, poses with club members.

has been exciting to inspire a few to do just that. “My goal is to prepare future non-radiologists to harness the confusing world of imaging, which will help them conduct appropriate, safe, and cost-effective evaluations of their patients,” he said.

“Unfortunately, some clinicians don’t always understand everything they should know about the numerous, expensive tests they order,” he added. “Inappropriate utilization of imaging resources contributes to unnecessary health care costs, which is now a crisis. In my clinical work, I witness this situation daily. In my efforts at NSU, I try to preempt this problem for the next generation of doctors and patients.”

His dedication to NSU-KPCOM includes working with the students on a one-on-one basis when they participate in an elective radiology rotation at the Memorial Healthcare System. Additionally, he coordinates a monthly radiology grand rounds session at the hospital for NSU and other medical students who are on clinical rotations.

The college’s Radiology Club, which was established more than a decade ago, also benefits from Ditchek’s expertise. In addition to serving as the club’s faculty adviser, he hosts several popular annual events, including an evening radiology department tour and question-and-answer session at Memorial Hospital Miramar.

Ditchek also hosts lunchtime lectures and an unknown case workshop—an interactive session where he teaches students a specific approach to analyze any unknown

imaging case they may be presented with in the future. “This popular workshop builds confidence for this stressful challenge students will inevitably face on rounds during their clinical years,” he said.

In his role as a clinical associate professor, Ditchek has had the privilege of watching some of the students he has mentored become successful in the radiology field, which he said is the most rewarding aspect of being a clinical faculty member. “Contributing to the development of new physicians and watching them emerge as stars in their own right is so gratifying,” he said. “The first president of the Radiology Club is now an assistant chief of nuclear medicine in a large hospital in the Midwest, and she teaches at the affiliated medical school. She regularly updates me on her progress, which is why it’s so rewarding to have played a mentorship role in that process.”

For Ditchek, who enjoys coaching middle school flag football and fishing in his spare time, the combination of being a practicing radiologist and getting to impart his knowledge to the college’s students is a perfect blend of his professional passions. “I hope other private physicians in the community know that the college provides such an outstanding opportunity to make an impact on the careers of talented future doctors,” he said. “Many of these students will soon become our clinical colleagues here in South Florida, making it even more rewarding and urgent for local practicing physicians to contribute to their education.” □

Alumni Corner

Alumni Spotlight



From Fledgling Student to Esteemed Osteopathic Dean

ALUMNUS AND HEAD OF THE IDAHO COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE REFLECTS ON RAPID RISE TO THE TOP

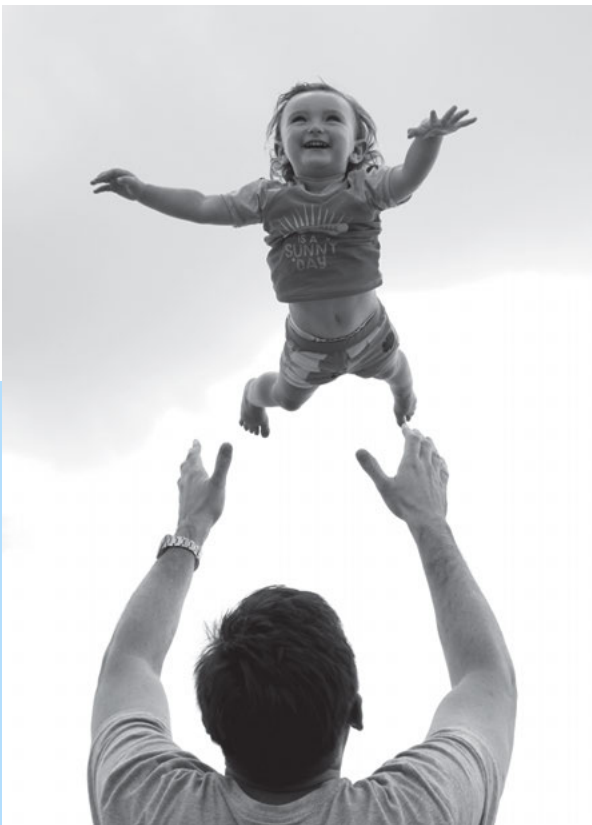
BY SCOTT COLTON, B.A., APR, COM/HPD DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

In 1996, when Robert Hasty, D.O., FACOI, FACP, arrived at NSU to begin his first year of medical school, it would be a safe bet to say he didn't envision himself being the dean of an osteopathic medical college two decades later. That, however, is exactly what transpired in 2016 when he was named as dean of the Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Hasty's rapid rise through the osteopathic ranks had its humble beginnings in the Midwest, and later in Boca Raton, Florida, which is where his family relocated when

he was still a child. "When I was in elementary school, our mother moved us to South Florida. She felt that Boca Raton would give us opportunities, and she was right," he said. "While I was the poor kid in the rich kids' town, Boca was an incredible place to grow up."

Interestingly, Hasty explained that the most formative period of his early life occurred during the six years he worked at a local Publix supermarket, where he started at 14 as a bag boy before being promoted to the loftier position of stock boy. "The experiences I learned there



Opposite page: Family Portrait: Robert, Sammie, and Christine Hasty

Above, left: Robert Hasty celebrates earning his D.O. degree with his mother, Linda.

Above, right: Hasty (middle) shares his excitement about the construction of the Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine with affiliated colleagues.

Left: Hasty enjoys some bonding time with his daughter, Sammie.

have shaped my entire life,” he said. “It honed my work ethic, integrity, and interpersonal skills, and it was an ideal environment to learn about community and people.”

All these years later, Hasty still has a soft spot in his heart for the supermarket chain. “Publix had a policy that you could retire after five years, so after being there for about six years, I retired because I needed to devote more time to studying for the MCAT,” he explained. “I am officially a Publix retiree—and the only physician I know to have that honor. I get invited to their retiree picnics every year, and I plan to go one day.”

Considering his rapid ascent from nascent medical student to dean of an osteopathic medical college, it’s surprising to learn that Hasty didn’t even consider pursuing a medical career until he was in his first semester at the University of Miami. “One evening, I had a doorway conversation with a nurse, who was the mother of my girlfriend at the time,” he recalled. “She was extolling the virtues of being a physician, and how she had always wished that one of her children would become a physician. That important conversation created a spark that mushroomed into an insatiable desire to become a physician and help others.”

Because he did so well academically while earning his Bachelor of Science degree with a triple major in biology, chemistry, and biochemistry and molecular biology from the University of Miami, Hasty knew he had a range of options open to him when it came time to select a medical school. Thanks to the advice he received from a family friend, he chose to remain close to home and matriculate at NSU’s College of Osteopathic Medicine (NSU-COM), which was recently renamed the Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine (NSU-KPCOM).

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Alumni Corner



Hasty displays his trademark charm and wit.

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“A close family friend was a childhood friend of the late Matthew Terry, D.O., who was dean of the college at that time and the son of the college’s founder, Morton Terry, D.O.,” said Hasty, who earned the lofty score of 30 on his MCAT. “Our family friend encouraged me to apply, and I was invited for a personal interview with Dr. Morton Terry. I remember him telling me that being an osteopathic physician was something special, and that I would have tremendous opportunities if I became a D.O.”

The personal interview with the senior Terry resonated deeply with Hasty. Consequently, when an acceptance letter arrived in his mailbox shortly thereafter, he made the fateful decisions to become a D.O. and pursue his medical career at NSU. “These two choices proved to be a couple of the best decisions I ever made,” he admitted.

The four years Hasty spent as an NSU osteopathic medical student left an indelible impression on the budding osteopathic superstar, who proclaimed that “Being a medical student at NSU-COM was the most transformative experience of my life. If I could go back and have that experience again, I would,” he said. “I enjoyed the tremendous learning and the great friendships and colleagues I made that have been invaluable to my career.”

After graduating from the college in 2000, Hasty served as both chief intern and chief resident at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami, Florida. In 2003, after completing his internal medicine residency training, he began working as a hospitalist at Lee Health in Fort Myers, Florida. The allure of his osteopathic alma mater, however, would soon lure him back to South Florida.

In 2009, Hasty was named Cocurricular Adviser of the Year at the NSU Student Life Achievement Awards.



“Working at Lee Health was an incredible first job as a physician, and I loved being a hospitalist at that great health system. During my second year there, while training medical students in the hospital, I had what felt like the second calling of my life, which was to become a full-time academic physician,” he explained. “I applied to NSU-COM and was hired soon thereafter. As soon as I arrived back at NSU-COM in 2005 and began teaching students, I knew I had found the right career.”

During his eight-year tenure as an NSU-KPCOM faculty member, Hasty made a profound impact at the college, becoming a much-beloved professor and administrator. In his multifaceted role as associate professor of internal medicine and program director of the college’s internal medicine residency program at Palmetto General Hospital in Hialeah, Florida, Hasty specifically relished serving as a mentor to the students and residents.

“Being an academic physician is the best job in the world, and the trainees are the best part of it,” he said. “The difference you can make in the education of future physicians has the power to positively impact the world and affect so many future patients. The friends and colleagues I worked with have helped me to become the academic leader I am today.”

Hasty, who earned numerous accolades during his years as an NSU-KPCOM faculty member, said his most important professional achievement at the college was the satisfaction he gained from playing a key role in improving the education of the medical students and residents he interacted with on a continuum.

“As a practice in humility, I try not to focus on professional awards, but the three Golden Apple awards I received from graduating classes have given me great affirmations,” he admitted. “I have them hung on the wall behind my desk, and when I am having a tough day, I look at them and know that I do make a difference to the students.”

“My personal mission statement is to make the world a better place by improving the lives of others.”

Relocating back to South Florida had a profound impact on Hasty’s personal life as well. Shortly after he began working at NSU-KPCOM, he met his future wife, Christine. “I instantly knew she was the one, and we have been together ever since,” said Hasty, who also is the proud father of daughter Sammie. “They are the loves of my life.”

Not surprisingly, when the multitasking Hasty was recruited by another medical school to assume an associate dean position, it proved an offer too irresistible to resist. In 2013, he and his family relocated to North Carolina so he could become the of associate dean for postgraduate affairs at Campbell University’s Jerry M. Wallace School of Osteopathic Medicine.

The next few years would be productive for Hasty, who helped lead the Campbell college to new levels of achievement. Under the tutelage of John Kauffman, D.O., FACOI, FACP, the founding dean of Campbell’s

Alumni Corner

osteopathic school, Hasty and the postgraduate team made great strides. “We were able to obtain accreditation for 383 newly created residency positions in 20 programs at 7 organizations,” he proudly admitted. “This led us to being awarded the American Osteopathic Association Star Award in 2015.”

In the fall of 2015, Hasty received an unexpected phone call from an old friend who was involved with the search process for a dean at a developing school that would eventually be called the Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine. “He told me they were looking for someone who had experience developing a new medical school, as well as experience with developing residency programs,” he said.

As 2016 rolled around, Hasty soon found himself ensconced as the founding dean and chief academic officer for the Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine, which will be a freestanding, privately funded, separately registered, and independently accredited/operated entity located at the Idaho State University Meridian Health Science Center.

Hasty, who is the second NSU-KPCOM alumnus to become dean at a sister osteopathic school, is understandably excited to be at the helm of the Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine, which will be the state’s inaugural medical school. The college, which was awarded preaccreditation status in September, will matriculate its first class of students in 2018.

“Considering that Idaho currently ranks 50th in terms of primary care physicians per capita, and that this



Hasty's popularity as a KPCOM faculty member was evidenced in 2009 when the graduating class honored him with the Golden Apple Award for his outstanding contributions to the student body. Travis Osterman, D.O., right, class of 2009, presents Hasty with the award.

region has severe physician shortages, I feel that developing Idaho's first medical school has been the most exhilarating and important work I have ever done,” he explained. “We are building the medical school of the future that will improve the health of the region for generations to come.”

Admittedly, Hasty has much to be thankful for as he embarks on his greatest professional challenge. “My personal mission statement is to make the world a better place by improving the lives of others,” he said. “I have found much joy when I am advancing this mission, and I encourage others to adopt a similar philosophy.” □

Alumni in the News



Roger Alvarez, D.O., M.P.H. ('09), coauthored the chapter "Diffusional Control of Nitric Oxide in the Vessel Wall" in

the book *Nitric Oxide*. He serves as an assistant professor in the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, where he focuses on clinical and basic research in pulmonary artery hypertension.

John T. Bailey, D.O. ('86), a practicing psychiatrist in Tallahassee, was reappointed to the Florida Medicaid Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee by Governor Rick Scott. He was reappointed for a term beginning October 17, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019.



Carisa Champion, D.O., J.D., M.P.H. ('16), was appointed to the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association's Legislative Committee.



Ana Crew, D.O. ('13), joined the AllianceHealth Medical Group family medicine practice in Durant, Okla-

homa, in November. Crew, who completed her postgraduate training in the AllianceHealth Durant Family Medicine Residency Program, will provide a full spectrum of health care, including women's and children's health.



Watson Ducatel, D.O., M.P.H., FACOI ('11), opened a medical practice in Brandon, Florida, called Healthy

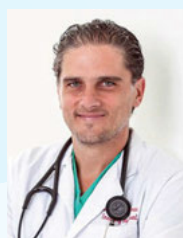
Bodies Medical and Dental Center with his wife, Martha Ducatel, D.M.D., who is an NSU College of Dental Medicine alumna. His focus area is a hands-on approach for diagnosing and treating disorders of the internal organs and musculoskeletal system.



Tyese Gaines, D.O., M.B.A. ('06), is the new medical director of Ultramed Urgent Care in Skokie, Illinois.

Gaines also serves as a lead strategist for Doctor Ty Media, LLC, which provides media coaching for physicians, as well as talent, health content, and editing services to media outlets.

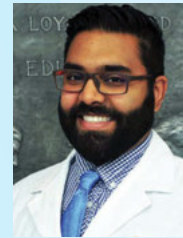
Angie Harris, D.O. ('00), joined the medical staff of Family Physicians of Alton, which is located on the Alton Memorial Hospital campus in Alton, Illinois. "I enjoy practicing family medicine because I get to treat the whole family," she said. "From children and young adults to seasoned adults of both genders, I really enjoy partnering and caring for patients of all ages and backgrounds."



Thierry Jacquemin, D.O. ('04), is the new Miami clinic medical director for the American Stem Cell Centers

of Excellence. "I am excited to join American Stem Cell Centers of

Excellence in this growing field of regenerative medicine—a discipline that allows patients to reach their full potential in a natural way," he said.



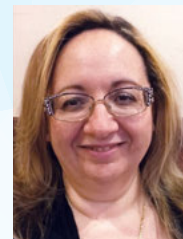
Bhavesh Joshi, D.O. ('11), who completed a primary care sports medicine fellowship at LECOM Health in

Erie, Pennsylvania, is teaching clinical medicine at the New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University. He also is working with Jonesboro Orthopedics and Sports Medicine to provide coverage for Arkansas State University athletics.



Will Kirby, D.O., FAOCD ('00), a dermatological entrepreneur, launched a tele-health app to diagnose and treat

herpes simplex virus. He also developed an aesthetic dermatology training workshop that offers in-person and online aesthetic dermatology training. In addition, he created a skin care line called LaserAway Beauty, available in the 37 aesthetic dermatology clinics he supervises in his capacity as the national medical director for the leading U.S. aesthetic dermatology group—LaserAway.

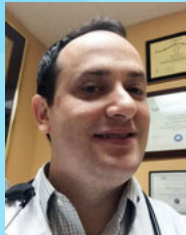


Nathalie A. Koenig, D.O. ('93), joined the Elite Health group as a family practitioner in its new offices in Davie and

Pembroke Pines, Florida. She also was a featured guest on a 1580 AM radio talk

Alumni in the News

show to speak to the Creole and French community about diabetes.



Brad C. Lipson, D.O., FASPC ('05), was named a Fellow of the American Society for Preventative Cardiology.

The designation signifies recognition of a physician's experience in lipidology and preventative medicine combined with knowledge, dedication, and contributions of the highest order to the advancement of cardiology practice by his or her peers. In July, he joined the obesity medicine practice at the Smart for Life clinic in Boca Raton, Florida. He also has served as a cardiovascular researcher and investigator with Excel Medical Clinical Trials.



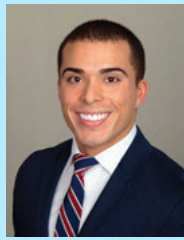
Michelle Mendez, D.O. ('96), was reappointed to the Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine by Governor Rick

Scott. She was reappointed for a term beginning June 26, 2017, and ending October 31, 2020.



John Ogunlade, D.O. ('14), a fourth-year neurosurgery resident at Riverside University Health

Systems, coauthored two chapters—"Neuropharmacology" and "Diagnostic Laboratory Studies in the ICU Patient: What, When, and How Often"—in the second edition of the book *Neurosurgical Intensive Care*.



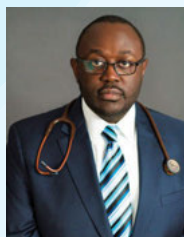
Alexandros Pappas, D.O. ('15), an ophthalmology resident at Howard University Hospital in Washington, D.C., received the

first-place award for his oral presentation "The Effect of Intraoperative Wavefront Aberrometry on Surgical Decision Making" in the Raab Venable Excellence in Research Program at the National Medical Association's 115th Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It was held July 29–August 2.



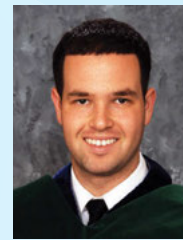
Ramsey K. Pevsner, D.O., Ph.D. ('03), became the first D.O. to be elected president of the Broward County

Medical Association in October. Additionally, she is the fourth female physician to serve in the presidential leadership role.



Berry Pierre, D.O., M.P.H., FACOI ('11), was named program director of the internal medicine residency program and

director of medical education at Wellington Regional Hospital in Wellington, Florida. He also launched a podcast in conjunction with his weekly video show *Lunch and Learn with Dr. Berry*, where he gives health educational lessons regarding some of the most-complex medical and public health topics.



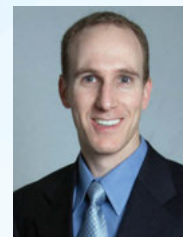
Joshua Rothenberg, D.O. ('12), joined the medical staff of Boca Raton Regional Hospital and the BocaCare physician network,

serving in the role of director of regenerative medicine for BocaCare Orthopedics. Rothenberg is a musculoskeletal joint and interventional spine specialist who is board certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation. Rothenberg completed his physical medicine and rehabilitation residency at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine/Jackson Memorial Hospital. He also completed a fellowship in physical medicine and rehabilitation sports medicine at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



Kimberly A. Sackheim, D.O. ('06), was selected to serve on the NYU School of Medicine Academic

Admissions Board and on the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Program Council. She also had her book *Pain Management and Palliative Care: A Comprehensive Guide* published by Springer.



Brett Scotch, D.O. ('99), was featured as the cover story of the August–September issue of *Sleep Review*. The article, titled

"ENTs and the Changing Face of Sleep Medicine," discussed the fact that sleep medicine, which was traditionally seen as a

specialty domain of pulmonologists, is changing thanks to physicians like himself, who are otolaryngologist/sleep specialists.



Meghna M. Shah, D.O., M.P.H., FAAP, FACOP ('12), joined the faculty at the Philadelphia College of

Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) as an assistant professor in the Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine. After completing her pediatrics residency at Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center in West Islip, New York, she worked as a pediatric hospitalist at St. Charles Hospital in Port Jefferson, New York. She also completed a post-residency training year in osteopathic neuromusculoskeletal medicine at PCOM.



Mehdi H. Shishehbor, D.O., Ph.D., M.P.H. ('99), was named director of the Cardiovascular Interventional

Center at University Hospitals' Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute in Cleveland, Ohio. Prior to joining University Hospitals, Shishehbor directed the Cleveland Clinic Endovascular Program, where he trained more than 40 interventional fellows and 400 physicians nationally on advanced techniques for limb salvage.



Joseph Stasio, D.O., FACOPF ('91), received the inaugural Rocky Vista University Presidential Award of Excellence,

established in 2017 to honor and recognize faculty members who consistently demonstrate excellence in the scholarly activity of teaching, service, and research. While the award is bestowed by the university president, the recipient is chosen by his or her fellow faculty members. Stasio serves as chair of the Primary Care Medicine Department at Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Parker, Colorado.

Tanya Itani Taival, D.O. ('00), an obstetrician and gynecologist at Parrish Medical Obstetrics & Gynecology in Titusville, Florida, was named a 2017 Top Doctor in Titusville by Top Doctor Awards, which is dedicated to selecting and honoring those health care practitioners who have demonstrated clinical excellence while delivering the highest standards of patient care.

James Treadwell, D.O. ('03), joined the medical staff at SOVAH Health-Danville in Virginia, where he is providing specialty orthopedics care to patients. He specializes in surgery of the hand and upper extremities and provides care for injuries affecting the hand, wrist, forearm, and elbow. Treadwell completed an orthopedic hand/upper extremity fellowship at the Carilion Clinic in Roanoke, Virginia, as well as a hand and microsurgery fellowship at the Christine M. Kleinert Institute in Louisville, Kentucky.

IN MEMORIAM

William L. McCoy, D.O. ('08), passed away on June 27.

Richard O. Loyd, D.O. ('92), a Georgia Cancer Specialists physician, passed away on August 19. After completing his residency and fellowship training, Loyd opened his Georgia Cancer Specialists (GCS) practice in Gwinnett County, then moved to Athens, Georgia, in 2007 to open the first GCS clinic in that area. Currently affiliated with Northside Cancer Institute, Georgia Cancer Specialists is one of the largest oncology practices in the United States. With more than 40 medical oncologists in the practice, its large, specially trained medical staff allowed Loyd to extend the latest in cancer treatment, technology, therapy for blood disorders, and clinical trials to the local community.

NSU-KPCOM 2017 Giving Societies

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the following donor list, which documents the individuals and organizations that made monetary contributions to the college from August 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017. If you notice an error or omission, please contact Jordan Mathis, M.S., director of student and alumni affairs, at (954) 262-1491 or jm3005@nova.edu.

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Closing Notes

STUDENTS, ALUMNI NAB AOF HONORS

On October 6, three members of the NSU-KPCOM family were recognized at the American Osteopathic Foundation (AOF) Honors ceremony in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Honors event recognizes excellence among

osteopathic physicians, educators, students, and other individuals. Listed below are the recipients, as well as the scholarship amount received in the Welch Scholars category.



Ross Zafonte, D.O.
(class of 1985)
Physician of the Year



Vatche Melkonian
(class of 2018)
Welch Scholars Grant (\$1,500)



Victoria Faucheux
(wife of Jason Faucheux, D.O.)
Donna Jones Moritsugu
Memorial Award

NSU EARNS NATIONAL DISTINCTION

U.S. News & World Report ranked Nova Southeastern University (NSU) within its 2018 list of top 200 Best Colleges. NSU is officially ranked at number 198 for national universities (up 16 spots).

"We are extremely proud to be listed in *U.S. News & World Report's* top 200 Best Colleges. These rankings show that we're recognized as a premier, private,

not-for-profit university of quality and distinction," said George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU president and chief executive officer.

The rankings are based on several key measures of quality, including graduation and retention rates, assessment of excellence, and student selectivity. Scores for each measure are weighted to arrive at a final overall score.



Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine
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